

[0011], [0013], [0019], [0022]-[0025] and [0034] of JP '997. JP '997 makes no such disclosure, but instead discloses a copying device in which a power supply, configured to supply power to a fixing heater, is disconnected from the fixing heater when an IC card is loaded into a connector of the copying device or a copying operation is not being conducted.

As detailed in paragraphs [0017] – [0020], as well as in Figure 3, of JP '997, the copying device utilizes a CPU 3, a switch (SW1) 2, an AND gate 5, a transistor Q1, a on/off contact 6b, a power supply 8 and a heating fixture 7. As shown in Figure 3, the AND gate 5 is supplied with two inputs, the first input, which is unlabeled, is connected to Vcc through a resistor R and the second input S1 is output from the CPU 3 and indicates if a copying operation is in progress. When both inputs are Hi, the AND gate 5 outputs a Hi signal to the transistor Q1, thereby putting the transistor Q1 in an ON state. When the transistor Q1 is in an ON state, current flows through an inductor 6d, the on/off contact 6b is closed, and the power source 8 supplies power to the fixing heater 7. If either of the inputs has a Lo state, the on/off contact 6b is opened, thereby cutting off power from the heating fixture 7.

When an IC card is loaded into the connector, the switch 2 is closed and the signal is grounded, resulting in a Lo signal being input into the AND gate and subsequently removing power from the heating fixture 7. Likewise, when a copying operation is not in progress, the second input S1 has a Lo state and power is cut off from the heating fixture 7.

The operation of JP '997 is simple; if an IC card is inserted or a copying operation is not taking place, power is cut off from the heating fixture 7. There is no disclosure of a transfer state in JP '997, nor is there any disclosure of a second storage medium to store a transfer state, and, as noted above, the Examiner has conceded that Namikawa fails to make such a disclosure. Therefore, the combination of Namikawa and JP '997 fails to


disclose all of the features of claim 1 and applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claim 7 is similar to claim 1 in that it recites storing a transfer state and controlling a power supply in response to the stored transfer state. Accordingly, claim 7 is allowable for the reasons stated above. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and claims 8-12 depend from claim 7. Applicants solicit an early action allowing claims 1-12.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 325772022500.

Respectfully submitted,

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